Sub C17 at least one gripping element radially displaceable by hydraulic or pneumatic fluid directly applied thereto to drivingly engage a tubular to permit a screw connection between said tubular and a further tubular to be tightened to a required torque; and

a sealing packer to inhibit, in use, fluid in said tubular from escaping therefrom.

F1 16. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said sealing packer is actuated by hydraulic or pneumatic fluid.

Sub C27 ~~26.~~ (Amended) An apparatus for connecting tubulars, comprising:

a top drive;

a body connectable to the top drive; and

at least one recess disposed about an outer surface of the body, wherein each F2 recess comprises a gripping element,

wherein the gripping element is radially displaceable by hydraulic or pneumatic fluid directly applied thereto to engage a first tubular.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the gripping element transfers rotational torque from the top drive to permit a screw connection between the first tubular and a second tubular.

28 The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the screw connection is tightened to a prescribed moment.

29. (Cancelled without prejudice) An apparatus for connecting tubulars, comprising;

a top drive;

a body having a first and second section;

one or more recesses disposed about an outer diameter of the second section; and

a radially expandable gripping element disposed with each recess.

F3 Sub C37 30. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the first section comprises a splined recess into which a splined connecting member may be located.

Sub C3 31. (Amended) An apparatus for connecting tubulars, comprising;

a top drive;

a body having a first and second section;

one or more recesses disposed about an outer diameter of the second section; and

a radially expandable gripping element disposed within each recess, wherein the gripping elements are radially expandable with pressurized hydraulic or pneumatic fluid directly applied thereto.

32. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the gripping elements are radially expanded to engage an inner surface of a tubular.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising one or more compensating pistons, wherein the pistons are pneumatically operable and adjustable to compensate for different weights of the tubular.

34. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the body is connected to the top drive.

35. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the top drive provides rotational torque to permit a screw connection between one or more tubulars.

Please add the following new claims 36-39:

Sub C3 36. (New) An apparatus for connecting tubulars using a top drive, comprising:

a body connectable to said top drive;

at least one gripping element radially displaceable by pressurized fluid directly applied thereto, the gripping element gripping a tubular torsionally to tighten a screw thread on the tubular and gripping the tubular axially to carry the weight of the tubular; and

Sub G3 a sealing packer to prohibit pressurized fluid in said tubular from escaping therefrom.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising one or more compensating pistons, wherein the pistons are pneumatically operable and adjustable to compensate for different weights of the tubular.

38. (New) An apparatus for connecting tubulars using a top drive, comprising:

a body connectable to said top drive;

at least one gripping element carried on the body and being radially displaceable to grip a tubular;

a fluid communication path for delivering fluid pressure directly to the gripping element, said fluid pressure radially displacing the gripping element; and

a sealing packer to prohibit pressurized fluid in said tubular from escaping therefrom.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, further comprising one or more compensating pistons, wherein the pistons are pneumatically operable and adjustable to compensate for different weights of the tubular.